



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE OF 2011

Shark and swordfish limited access permit holders and applicants for permit transfers who fish with longline or gillnet gear, must submit a copy of their Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification Workshop certificate in order to renew or transfer either a shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). Vessel operators are required to possess on board the vessel valid workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and operator at all times.

IMPORTANT NOTE - Workshop certificates that were initially issued in 2008 may be expiring. Vessel owners whose certificates are expiring must attend a workshop and obtain a new certificate prior to permit renewal. Vessel operators must possess valid workshop certificates on board for both the vessel owner and operator.

WHO MUST ATTEND

Vessel owners and operators using longline or gillnet gear and holding, or applying for, one or more of the following permits:

- Shark Directed Limited Access Permit;
- Shark Incidental Limited Access Permit;
- Swordfish Directed Limited Access Permit; and/or
- Swordfish Incidental Limited Access Permit

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOPS

- To educate longline and gillnet fishermen on the required techniques for safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish
- To improve identification of protected species and improve reporting
- To generate a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries
- To provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species

SCHEDULE

The following table lists the workshops that are scheduled to occur in April, May, and June of 2011. Workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 a.m.** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 p.m.**

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
April 2011					
4/20/2011	Hilton Garden Inn	5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail	Kitty Hawk	NC	27949
4/27/2011	Hilton Hotel (Armstrong Airport)	901 Airline Drive	Kenner	LA	70062
May 2011					
5/18/2011	Town & Country Inn	2008 Savannah Highway	Charleston	SC	29407
5/25/2011	Hilton Hotel (Logan Airport)	1 Hotel Drive	Boston	MA	02128
June 2011					
6/15/2011	Holiday Inn	5549 Leopard Street	Corpus Christi	TX	78408
6/29/2011	Holiday Inn	10120 South Federal Highway	Port St. Lucie	FL	34952



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WHAT TO BRING

To ensure that the workshop certificate is linked to the correct permit, please bring the following items to the workshop:

Individual Vessel Owner:

- Proof of identification,
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- A copy of the vessel registration or documentation.

Representative of a Business or Co-Owned Vessel:

- Proof that the individual is an agent (partial owner) of the business,
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- Proof of identification.

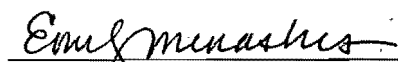
Vessel Operator:

- Proof of identification.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To pre-register for a scheduled workshop, please contact Angler Conservation Education at (386) 682-0158.

For further information regarding workshop requirements please visit the following webpage:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops> or contact Rick Pearson at (727) 824-5399.



Emily Menashes

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

MAR - 3 2011

Date

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